

**[Gertrude D.]**

[?]

Accession no.

W 3624

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WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title American lives Packinghouse worker

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 5/16/39

## Library of Congress

Project worker Betty Burke

Project editor

Remarks

W3624 [?]

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy

DATE MAY 16, 1939

SUBJECT American Lives Packinghouse worker

1. Date and time of interview May 15, 1939, 6:30 p.m.
2. Place of interview 101 S. Ashland, West Side YWCA
3. Name and address of informant Gertrude D. (Withholds address and insists very strongly that her name not be used.)

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4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. None

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

YWCA Center, West Side. Family owns home on North Side, in good condition. Good, quiet neighborhood.

FORM B

### Personal History of Informant

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy

DATE May 15, '39

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Gertrude Daube

1. Ancestry German, American Born

2. Place and date of birth Chicago, 22 years about

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3. Family Both parents, one younger sister

4. Places lived in, with dates Chicago

5. Education, with dates Grammar School

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Worked a short time once in a radio factory, last 6 years in yards

7. Special skills and interests

Excels in athletic sports of all kinds, has won sweaters, cups, etc, in volleyball, softball, basket ball, swimming. Enjoys horseback riding. Amateur, of course. Used to play on factory teams.

8. Community, and religious activities

Member of the Industrial Girls dept. of the YWCA, West Side. Joined club for its athletic program, swimming, etc. Likes and shares social activity of club. Reluctantly goes along with club's social action program, but obviously and apparently because of shop influences, disinterested in discussion of unions, etc.

9. Description of informant

Pretty, strong, and stubborn. Well liked by the girls. Lots of pep and always wanting to be engaging in physical activity.

10. Other Points gained in interview

Goes to German Lutheran church. Father a skilled, steadily employed craftsman. AFL union member.

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FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited )

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE May 15, '39

SUBJECT American Lives Packinghouse worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Gertrude D.

I've worked in Reliable Packing CO. for the last 6 years, mostly in Sliced Bacon. I just wrap up the bacon as it comes out of the slicing machine, in those cellophane wrappers, and stack them. I have lots of fun at work, we kid around with the guys all the time. Sometimes we fry bacon on a little electric plate that we plug up to one of the machines. A bunch of us always eat together. We even make coffee. It's against rules to cook anything, really. You're supposed to use the cafeteria. But the boss don't care, he comes around lunch time and we make him eat with us. He likes our gang. Some of the old Polish women get sore as heck because he treats us better than them. They don't like to see young girls and fellows have a good time, but we don't do anything. We just monkey around a little bit, that's all. They're just jealous 'cause they can't.

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I get paid by the hour. It's pretty nice where I work. It gets cold, but I don't mind. I got two weeks vacation with pay this winter, I took another week off without pay, the boss let me off, and I went to Florida. Did I have fun! I was flat broke when I came back.

We have a union in our place. It's the Employees Mutual Benefit Association. We have dances and socials, [bunco?] parties, things like that. We have our Grievance committee, all that. Of course, the CIO had to come butting in where they weren't wanted and lots of people joined but my gang didn't and I'm glad. I'm satisfied with my job and I got no kick with the company. Why should I worry

FORM D

Extra Comment

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy

DATE May 15, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse Worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Gertrude D.

about somebody else's troubles on the job? I pay my dues to the Employees Association and always will. They're just jealous of anybody with a good job, and they join the CIO and try to get the company to give them all the easy work. Same of them in the CIO union

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won't even talk to us anymore, can you imagine that! We get along at work better than any of them, so we don't pay any attention to them.